

***Claims:***

1. A method for detecting an increased risk of heart failure in a mammalian subject by detecting the level of urotensin in a bodily fluid sample whereby an elevated level of urotensin relative to the normal level is indicative of an increased risk of heart failure.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the heart failure is the result of ischaemic cardiomyopathy, dilated cardiomyopathy, hypertensive cardiomyopathy or valvular disease.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein the level of urotensin is determined by using an immunoassay.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein the immunoassay is a lateral flow immunoassay.
5. The methods of claim 1, wherein the immunoassay is a flow-through immunoassay.
6. The method of claim 1, wherein the normal level is a level typically found in the said bodily fluid of a subject which is indicative of the absence of heart failure.
7. The method of claim 1, which comprises detecting a second marker whereby an elevated level of a second marker is indicative of an increased risk of heart failure.
8. The method of claim 7, wherein the second marker is NT-proBNP.
9. The method of claim 7, wherein the second marker is BNP.
10. The method of claim 7, wherein the level of second marker is determined by use of an immunoassay.
11. The method of claim 1, wherein the immunoassay is a lateral flow immunoassay.
12. The methods of claim 1, wherein the immunoassay is a flow-through immunoassay.
13. The method of claim 7, wherein the bodily fluid is plasma.
14. The method of claim 7, wherein the bodily fluid is interstitial fluid.
15. The method of claim 7, wherein the subject is human.

- 16. The method of claim 7, wherein the level of urotensin is monitored periodically.
- 17. The method of claim 7, wherein the level of a second marker is monitored periodically.
- 5 18. A kit for the detecting an increased risk for heart failure in a subject, comprising an antibody for detecting a level of urotensin in a bodily fluid sample obtained from a subject.
- 19. The kit of claim 18, further comprising an antibody for measuring the level of a second marker.
- 10 20. The kit of claim 18, wherein the second marker is NT-proBNP
- 21. The kit of claim 18, wherein the second marker is BNP.